



President Bidya Devi Bhandari, Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun (right), Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli (second left) and National Assembly Chairman Ganesh Timilsina see Chinese President Xi Jinping off at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu on Sunday.

Nepal, China sign deal to develop 50-km road linking Kathmandu and Rasuwagadhi

The road, including two tunnels, will reduce the distance to the town bordering China, but with feasibility study yet to be done, construction is at least three years away.

PRITHVI MAN SHRESTHA
KATHMANDU, OCT 13

Nepal and China signed a memorandum of understanding on Sunday under which China will help build two stretches of the road linking Kathmandu and Rasuwagadhi. It will include two tunnels.

The agreement was signed between Nepal's Ministry of Finance and the China International Development Cooperation Agency in Kathmandu on Sunday, hours before Chinese President Xi Jinping concluded his two-day state visit to Nepal.

The first stretch of the road will be 32 kilometres long—from Tokha in Kathmandu to Chhahare in Nuwakot—with a 4.17-kilometre tunnel. The second 19-km stretch will link Mailung with Syaphrubesi in Rasuwa district, according to officials at the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport. This stretch will consist of several small tunnels due to frequent landslides, according to an official

with the Department of Roads. The entire road is part of Nepal and China's bid to enhance connectivity and ease trade through the Kerung-Rasuwa road.

When complete, the project will reduce both distance and travel time between Kathmandu and Rasuwagadhi, according to officials at the Road Department.

"But a feasibility study has yet to take place. So the construction will not take place immediately, despite an agreement with China," said Arjun Jung Thapa, chief of the foreign coordination division at the Department of Roads. "It may take around three years to prepare a detailed project report because it's a complex project."

As per a joint statement issued by Nepal and China after Xi's visit, the two sides have agreed to proactively cooperate on the feasibility study for the construction of the tunnels along the road from the Chinese border town of Jilong/Kerung to Kathmandu.

"The agreement signed on Sunday is just for a feasibility study," said Dil

Bahadur Chhetry, an under-secretary at the Finance Ministry who oversees China affairs. "The study will be carried out with a grant."

According to Chhetry, separate agreements have to be signed for construction works. The Chinese side has also said the implementation of the project should be done "step-by-step".

Earlier, the Department of Roads had conducted a feasibility study for the Tokha-Chhahare tunnel. Without a tunnel, the distance between Tokha and Chhahare will be 44 kilometres. According to Thapa, the road cannot function as a two-lane highway without the tunnel.

The road will link another road connecting Rasuwagadhi from Dhading's Galchhi at the Gongote area of Nuwakot. From Gongote, there will be a single road connecting Rasuwagadhi via Betrawati and Syaphrubesi. "Currently, Kathmandu-Rasuwa road is around 125 kilometres long. This distance will be reduced once this project is executed," said Thapa.

>> Continued on page 4



SPOTLIGHT | 16

Hybrid rice promises to change the face of paddy cultivation in Nepal

Xi departs, after signing over two dozen agreements and memorandums

Chinese president returns to Beijing after a whirlwind round of meetings with Nepali leaders and officials.

ANIL GIRI
KATHMANDU, OCT 13

Chinese President Xi Jinping concluded his two-day state visit to Nepal on Sunday with both sides extolling the elevation of bilateral relations and the signing of over two dozen agreements and memorandums of understanding, primarily concerning infrastructure projects. Beijing has offered to extend financial support for all of these projects, either as grant or loan.

"The bilateral relationship between Nepal and China has entered a new phase," reads a joint communiqué issued in Kathmandu on Sunday after Xi departed for Beijing. The two sides agreed, among others, to "respect each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity".

During delegation-level talks, Nepal reiterated its firm commitment to 'one-China policy', acknowledging that "Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chinese territory" and that "Tibet affairs are China's internal affairs". Nepal also reiterated its commitment to not allowing any anti-China activities on its soil.

After seeing Xi off at Tribhuvan International Airport, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli took to Twitter to dub the visit "immensely successful" and that it had taken "bilateral relations to

new heights".

Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali too expressed his gratitude to Xi on Twitter for providing good wishes, intimacy and a commitment to extending support to Nepal.

The joint statement states that the two sides have agreed to take forward the Belt and Road Initiative as an "important opportunity to deepen mutually-beneficial cooperation in all fields in a comprehensive manner, jointly pursue common prosperity and dedicate themselves to maintaining peace, stability and development in the region."

The focus of the statement is on connectivity, especially relating to building infrastructure like ports, roads, railways, aviation and communications within what the joint statement calls "the overarching framework of trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network".

The joint statement also uses the phrase "strategic partnership" for the first time concerning Nepal-China relations. During Xi's visit, China agreed to establish the multidisciplinary Madan Bhandari University for Science and Technology in Makwanpur and pledged to extend support as soon as the Nepali side chooses a suitable site.

>> Continued on page 4

Congress lawmaker Mohammad Aftab Alam arrested in relation to 2008 Rautahat blast

The politician faces charges of burning those injured in the explosion alive in a brick kiln.

SHIVA PURI
RAUTAHAT, OCT 13

A Nepali Congress lawmaker was arrested on Sunday in connection with an explosion and the subsequent murder of at least 23 persons in Rautahat 12 years ago.

Mohammad Aftab Alam was taken into custody for his involvement in a bomb blast in Fradahawa, Rajpur, in the district on April 9, 2008, according to the district police. A police team detained the Nepali Congress leader, who was elected to the federal parliament from Rautahat constituency-2 in the 2017 elections, from near the Sheikh Idris gate in Rautahat.

"Alam was arrested at around 10 am while he was on his way to attend a wedding function," said Deputy Superintendent of Police Nabin Karki.

At least two people were killed when the explosives "targeting the Constituent Assembly elections" suddenly went off. According to eyewitness statements, about two dozen people were injured in the explosion. Alam faces charges of burning the injured alive in a brick kiln "to destroy the evidence".

Two months after the incident, on June 23, 2008, Alam had turned himself in to police when a first informa-



tion report was filed identifying him as the primary accused. The Office of the Attorney General, however, on July 14, 2008, decided against pursuing a criminal case against Alam and five others.

Responding to a writ petition filed on behalf of the victims, the Supreme Court in May 2012, four years after the incident, had ordered that the case be moved forward.

"There is enough ground to investigate further and move the case forward," a joint bench of judges Sushila Karki and Bharat Bahadur Karki had observed, ordering the Rautahat District Police Office to arrest those named defendants in the writ.

The court order, however, had

remained unimplemented, leading the petitioners to file a complaint with the Judgement Execution Directorate in March this year.

"Not obeying the order would have meant contempt of court. So we arrested Alam today," Superintendent of Police Bhupendra Khatri, chief of the Rautahat District Police, told the Post. Alam will be presented to court on Monday as Sunday was a public holiday, according to police.

On Sunday, Krishna Yadav, the Rautahat district chair of the Nepali Congress, called a press meet to condemn Alam's arrest.

"Alam's arrest is unfortunate," said Yadav. "We demand his release."

Congress cadres from the district too staged a protest where police fired two rounds of tear gas. Police have intensified security and deployed more personnel in the district headquarters Gaur and Alam's native village of Fardahawa.

Alam was elected from Rautahat constituency-2 in the first Constituent Assembly elections in 2008. However, he lost the second Constituent Assembly elections in 2013, before going on to win the 2017 legislative elections. Alam served as a minister in the Madhav Kumar Nepal government.

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A masked dancer performs the Navadurga Naach at Mulchowk in Patan on Sunday. POST PHOTO: ANISH REGMI

Ruling party stares at tough by-election

Government's poor show and controversies surrounding some leaders could affect poll outcome, analysts say.

TIKA R PRADHAN
KATHMANDU, OCT 13

The ruling Nepal Communist Party with 174 lawmakers is just a little shy of commanding a two-thirds majority in the 275-member federal parliament. The party also runs majority governments in six out of seven provinces. The 2017 elections certainly installed the Communist Party as the biggest political force in the country. But as the by-election approaches, things are not looking too good for the ruling party.

By-elections for 52 positions, including a vacant seat in the House of Representatives, is set to be held on November 30.

By-polls will also be held to elect three provincial assembly members, one mayor, three rural municipality chairmen, one rural municipality vice-chair and 43 ward chairs.

While all posts are equally important for the parties, the one position all of them will be vying for is Kaski Constituency 2. After the death of Rabindra Adhikari in a helicopter crash in February, a House of Representatives seat is vacant.

Analysts say the poor performance of the government, despite having such a huge electoral mandate, and

some scandals involving ruling party leaders can have a massive impact during by-elections.

If elections of the Trekking Agency Association of Nepal, Thamel Tourism Development Council, Nepal Association of Foreign Employment Agencies and the Jhapa and Chitwan chapters of the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries are anything to go by, things do not look bright for the Nepal Communist Party. The party-affiliated panels have faced defeats in these elections.

Jhapa and Chitwan are Oli's and Dahal's constituencies, respectively.

"There are two reasons for the defeat of NCP candidates in these elections. First, the business community is not satisfied with the economic policy of the government. Second, the two communist parties are yet to unify in a true sense," said Jhalak Subedi, a political analyst who has closely followed Nepal's leftist politics for decades.

Even more than a year and a half after the merger of CPN-UML and the CPN (Maoist Centre), party members are yet to internalise the unification, as wrangling has continued over various issues.

"It's worrisome and shameful for the unified communist party to

have lost such minor elections," said Subedi.

Besides the recent mini-elections and poor performance of the government, the ruling party has been dealing with some major scandals involving its leaders.

Party General Secretary Bishnu Poudel has been embroiled in controversy in an illegal land purchase deal. In the most recent case, Krishna Bahadur Mahara, one of the key leaders of the party, had to step down as the House Speaker following rape allegations against him.

"The Mahara case has put the ruling party on the defensive," said Subedi. "Such scandals could also have implications during the by-elections."

Oli had ensured a victory for his party in 2017 elections on the nationalistic plank, as the country was crippled by an Indian border blockade in 2015 just after the devastating earthquakes. The two communist parties had jointly fought elections promising prosperity.

But the government's performance in the last one and a half years has not been up to the mark, with even party insiders expressing their dissatisfaction at the Oli administration.

Some of the controversial bills the

Oli administration has introduced too have courted controversy.

In this scenario, a political commentator says, independent voters' response will be crucial for the ruling party. "Earlier Oli's nationalist posturing had attracted swing votes, but the government's popularity has been fading fast," said Shyam Shrestha. "The government and the party have been embroiled in controversies one after the other. The party may have to pay a price for that during the upcoming elections."

According to Shrestha, organisational votes alone won't be sufficient to win elections, as around 40 percent of the independent voters play a crucial role.

Party leaders, however, are optimistic. "We are not a mass-based party, we are a cadre-based mass party," said Yubraj Chaulagain, a central committee member. "For a party like ours, there is always a chance of positive results even during the time of crisis."

Chaulagain, however, agrees that the ruling party is not going through encouraging times.

"It's unfortunate that a party leading nearly a two-thirds majority government is going through such a rough patch," said Chaulagain.

Market aflush with ayurvedic medicines containing heavy metals in excessive amounts

Doctors warn heavy metals—arsenic, lead and mercury—could affect kidney, liver, skin and blood circulation and could also lead to death.

ARJUN POUDEL
KATHMANDU, OCT 13

Ayurvedic medicines containing heavy metals—arsenic, lead, and mercury—in excessive amounts have been found to be sold throughout the country for months.

Mahayograjguggul of batch SB0371, Prabal Bhasma of batch SB0115, Ekangavir Ras of batch SB0196, Vtagajankush Ras of batch SB 0190, Mahabata Bignasan Ras of batch SB0106, Vrit Batachintamani Ras of batch SB 0244and Vrit Batachintamani Ras of batch SB 0244 (all ayurvedic medicines) manufactured by Dabur India Ltd and imported by Dabur Nepal Pvt Ltd were found containing excessive amounts of heavy metal.

However, the Department of Drug

Administration, which is the national regulatory body of the drug market, has not recalled those medicines from the market, even though a laboratory test confirmed a heavy metal presence in those medicines. The presence of heavy metals in medicines has negative side effects on patients, doctors say.

Bed Prasad Sharma, a victim who used the said drugs produced by the company to treat his backache and suffered from arsenic poisoning, had asked the Department for action. Sharma, who had carried out the test of the said drugs in Zest Laboratories Pvt Ltd in Nepal and in Christian Medical College Vellore of India, revealed the result of the tests which confirmed the presence of excessive amounts of heavy metals in the drugs.

Sharma had then presented the lab reports to the Department.

The Department advised him to file a case at the court. Sharma lodged a case against the manufacturing company at the Central Bureau of Investigation of Nepal Police, which collected samples from the market and carried out a test at the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology. The Academy's report also showed excessive amounts of arsenic in the said drugs.

The Bureau forwarded the file of its investigation with the Academy's report to the Department of Commerce Supplies and Consumer Protection for necessary action.

Santosh KC, the spokesperson of the Department of Drug Administration, concedes that his

office is aware of the presence of arsenic, lead, and mercury in certain batches of the company's product. "We have been carrying out tests to confirm heavy metal presence in certain batches of drugs manufactured by the company," said KC. "We will take necessary action if the report is positive."

When asked why his office did not recall the drugs allegedly containing hazardous substances that pose grave risks to a patient's health, he said that his office would take a decision only after the administration's own lab releases its test report.

The Department of Ayurveda has also requested the Department of Drug Administration to carry out checks on the ayurvedic medicines which were allegedly found

containing heavy metals.

"We have requested the Department of Drug Administration to conduct tests on those medicines," said Dr Basudev Upadhyay, director general at the Department of Ayurveda, told the Post. "If the tests confirm the presence of hazardous substances like lead, arsenic, and mercury in the drugs then we will issue a circular to Ayurvedic doctors to refrain them from recommending the said medicines."

Ayurvedic drugs containing an excessive amount of heavy metals can affect a patient's kidney, liver, skin, and blood circulation directly; it can also lead to the death of the patient, according to him.

Deepak Pokhrel, an official at the Department of Commerce Supplies

and Consumer Protection, confirmed that the Central Bureau of Investigation of Nepal Police, which has also carried out lab tests of the said medicines, had forwarded the file to his office for necessary action.

"We will discuss with the Department of Drug Administration and take an appropriate decision," said Pokhrel. Sharma, who suffers from liver failure and skin problems from arsenic poisoning, has filed a lawsuit at Sunsari District Court for compensation against the company.

"It has been seven months since I filed the case, but those medicines are still being sold and doctors are still prescribing them," Sharma told the Post, over the phone from Jhapa. "A lot of patients like me can suffer from the side effects of these medicines."



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Logs from the recently felled trees lie on a roadside in Sitapaila, Kathmandu. The government is cutting down more than 2,000 trees to widen Kathmandu's Ring Road.

POST PHOTO: SANJOG MANANDHAR

In Achham, new mothers continue to face ostracism

While the district has introduced several safe motherhood programmes, they have largely been ineffective.

MENUKA DHUNGANA
ACHHAM, OCT 13

On Saturday, Kalpana Das, 21, from Sanphebagar-11, gave birth to her first child, a boy, at the Achham District Hospital, in Mangalsen, where she was admitted, alone. With her husband and in-laws away to India for work, Das had reached the district hospital on her own.

With nobody from her family to take care of her post-childbirth, Das was left all on her own, with her own biological mother declining to touch her.

"Whenever I touch a postpartum woman, I get sick," said Radha, Kalpana's mother. "The gods get angry. I can only touch her on the ninth day of childbirth."

According to the tradition she follows, touching a postpartum or menstruating woman is considered sacrilege.

"I felt more pain than I did during childbirth when my mother refused to touch me," said Kalpana.

Maina Bhula, from Kamalabazar-5, went through a similar treatment after giving birth to her daughter.

"Even though we can't carry heavy things during this time, nobody comes to our help," said Bhula.

Most of the women in Achham the Post talked to said that while they are aware of the precautions they need to adopt after giving birth, they couldn't put them to practice because of the superstitions.

"I know that postpartum mothers should not carry heavy objects for months after childbirth, but if I don't do it, who else will?" a mother of four, who did not want to be named, told the Post. "All the education and awareness I have received goes in vain when the people responsible don't want to go by it," she added.

While Achham has introduced several safe motherhood programmes, they have largely been ineffective, the women said.

According to data from Achham District Hospital, 25 percent of the women in the district give birth at home even as there are 65 'birthing centres' in Achham.

"The number of women who deliver babies at home is relatively high in the rural areas of the district," said Debu Dhungana, an office helper at the district hospital. "The condition of women is further worsened by the practice of untouchability after childbirth."

"This further aggravates the women's condition," Dhungana added.

Suspension bridges help link Tehrathum villages with headquarters

Every year, the District Coordination Committee receives around 10 to 12 demands for suspension bridges.

CHANDRA KARKI
TEHRATHUM, OCT 13

As most of the local units have prioritised the construction of suspension bridges in Tehrathum district, more than 100 suspension bridges have been constructed in the district so far.

According to the data of the District Coordination Committee, five to seven suspension bridges are being constructed every year.

Shiva Dhungana, chief at the District Coordination Committee, said that more than 100 suspension bridges have been constructed to connect villages with Myanglung, the district headquarters, in the last one and half decades.

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, on his first stint as prime minister in 2015, had pledged to replace all the tuins in Nepal with suspension bridges.

Kishor Chandra Dulal, former chairman at the District Development Committee, said that they had opted for the construction of the suspension bridge over the rivers and streams to connect rural villages with the town. "There were no road networks in the past. People had to walk through foot trails to reach the nearby market," said Dulal. "So the process of constructing suspension bridges had begun more than a decade ago."

Every year, the District Coordination Committee has been receiving around 10 to 12 applications demanding suspension bridges in villages. As per the record of the committee, suspension bridges were recently constructed at eight various places, including Lambu, Khorunga, Iwa and Teliya streams and Tamor river.

In the past, cases of accidents and



POST PHOTO: CHANDRA KARKI

deaths while crossing the river and streams using tuins, wooden boats, tyre tubes, wooden logs were common in the district. Such accidents have decreased after the construction of suspension bridges.

Dilli Dahal, a local of Menchhyayam, said that they no longer have to risk their lives to cross the rivers and streams during the rainy season. According to him, locals in remote areas have been able to take their produce, especially vegetables to the markets across the river and streams, with the construction of bridges. Dahal said, "School-going children don't have to worry about rain-swollen rivers and streams."

Laxman Tiwari, a provincial lawmaker, said that suspension bridges have become the backbone of development in Tehrathum district. Tiwari said, "The demand of suspension bridge is high in the district. It connects people to places and opens the door to development."

Xi departs, after signing over two dozen ...

>> Continued from page 1

China has agreed to work on the detailed project report for the hotly anticipated Kathmandu-Kerung and both sides reiterated their commitment to cooperating on the Kathmandu-Pokhara-Lumbini Railway Project. Both sides also agreed to optimise the functioning of the Jilong/Kerung port, open the Lizi/Nechung port at the earliest and build necessary infrastructure on the Nepali side of the border. Araniko Highway, the only highway linking Nepal and China, will also be reconstructed.

Both sides have agreed to hold comprehensive discussions to strengthen trade relations, with China pledging assistance to expand Nepal's exports to China. Nepal will in turn facilitate the opening of the branches of Chinese banks and other financial services in Nepal in order to facilitate trade and investment between the two countries, according to the joint statement.

In the energy sector, both sides will "bring into full play the Joint Implementation Mechanism on Nepal-China Cooperation in the energy sector, to carry out exchanges and cooperation in the fields of hydropower, wind power, solar power, biomass energy and other kinds of new energy as well as grid systems". Both sides will also carry out the Nepal-China Electric Power Cooperation Plan and complete it within a year.

Similarly, Nepal and China signed the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and have expressed hope regarding the Treaty on Extradition. China had pushed for the signing of the Extradition Treaty but after opposition from several quarters, they settled for the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance, according to government officials.

There were concerns over the signing of an extradition treaty with China at a time when a similar treaty with India has been pending for long. Nepal signed an extradition treaty with India on October 2, 1953, when Matrika Prasad Koirala was the prime minister. The Indian side, however, has been demanding a revision to the treaty. In 2006, Nepal and India were close to signing an Extradition Treaty and the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance. Negotiations however failed due to disagreements among the parties in Nepal. Similar attempts collapsed in 2008 and 2010.

The two sides have also agreed to strengthen cooperation between law enforcement agencies on information exchanges,

capacity building and training.

"In the next three years, China will offer 100 training opportunities to the Nepali law enforcement officers each year. With a view to promoting cooperation in security sector, the two sides will continue to strengthen cooperation in the exchange of visits of the security personnel, joint exercises and training, disaster prevention and education and personnel training," the joint statement reads.

The primary opposition Nepali Congress, however, said that implementation of the agreements is key and that Nepal should not always depend on the debts from foreign countries and donor agencies.

"If we review and revisit past accords with China, we can easily find several shortcomings in implementation," Narayan Khadka, the Congress

party's shadow foreign minister, told the Post. "Another important issue is to reduce the widening trade gap with China. We have to evaluate the reaction from neighbours and other powers regarding the visit in the days to come."

China and India, which are also big trading partners, have agreed to set up a high-level mechanism to reduce trade deficit, but there was no agenda during Xi's visit on ways to reduce Nepal's trade gap with the north. Nepal's trade deficit with China is the second highest after India. In the first month of this fiscal year, Nepal's trade deficit with China crossed Rs 40 billion.

A new understanding was also reached between Nepal and China regarding Everest, or Zhumulangma in Mandarin, as an "eternal symbol of

the friendship between Nepal and China." The two sides have agreed to work together to address climate change and protect the environment while also jointly announcing the height of Everest. Nepal is in the midst of remeasuring the height of the tallest peak in the world.

The two countries also jointly published a 20-point list of instruments signed during the visit. This list includes memorandums of understanding between the National Planning Commission of Nepal and the National Development and Reform Commission of China, a sister-city agreement, Cooperation on Traditional Medicine, Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response, and an agreement to establish a Confucius Institute at Tribhuvan University.



PHOTO: RSS

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands at the agreement signing ceremony in Kathmandu.

Nepal, China sign deal to develop 50-km road linking Kathmandu ...

>> Continued from page 1

Talks about upgrading the Kathmandu-Rasuwagadhi road have been ongoing for the last few years, but no concrete progress has been made so far. This was one of the five projects proposed by Nepal to the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for financing in June 2016 when the bank held its first annual meeting. But the bank

Talks on upgradin
the road have been
ongoing for years,
but no progress has
been made.

chose to assist in other projects.

The government had also tried to bring in private sector investment for the project. The Investment Board Nepal had placed it on the list of projects to be developed under the public-private partnership (PPP) model.

"But since China has committed to developing the project, it is unlikely to be built under a PPP model," said Thapa.

Funeral Service



Miss Winifred Eileen Lodge (94), founder of Nepal Leprosy Trust (NLT), Nepal Leprosy Fellowship (NLF) and one of the pioneers of International Nepal Fellowship (INF). Who dedicated herself selflessly in the fight against leprosy in Nepal and known as Mother for leprosy affected persons, is no more with us from 1:05 pm on 11th October 2019.

We the Eileen Lodge family cordially invites all friends of her to join the funeral service which is taking place as per the following:

Date : Wednesday 16th October, 2019
Time : 4:00 pm
Venue : Patan Koinonia Church, Kumaripati, Lalitpur

Miss Winifred Eileen Lodge Family

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Address: Semlar-01, Rupandehi (at present Butwal-15)
Passport No.: 06848905
Contact No.: 9818581999

EDITORIAL

Don’t get left behind

Nepal has a lot of catching up to do in terms of digital technology.

Nepal climbed up the rankings to the 108th position out of 141 countries in the Global Competitiveness Index released by the World Economic Forum on Wednesday. Last year, Nepal ranked 109th out of 140 countries. The yearly assessment report measures national competitiveness based on the state of institutions, policies and factors that determine an economy’s productivity. Out of the total competitiveness score of 100 or the ‘frontier’ where there are no productivity constraints, Nepal has gained 51.6 points—far below India (68th) with 61.4 points and Sri Lanka (84th) with 57.1 points, and the global average of 60 points. While Nepal has performed better in indicators such as macro-economic stability, road connectivity, electricity access and supply, the economy performed poorly in terms of innovation capability, information, communication and technology adoption, product market development, judicial independence and the government’s long-term vision.

According to the report, Nepal has scored fairly well in the financial sector: This progress is commendable, but there is a long way to go. The report goes on to establish that achieving productivity growth is not only compatible with greater equality and environmental sustainability but may, in fact, spur quality economic growth. Given that, sustained economic growth remains a critical pathway out of poverty and a core driver of human development.

The annual data published by the Government of Nepal shows the economic growth rate in the fiscal year 2018-19 at 14 percent (at current prices). The service sector remains the dominant contributor with approximately 57 percent, followed by agriculture with 27 percent, and industry with 16 percent. Generally, when countries grow, they tend to industrialise. Meaning, they move more into the manufacturing sector, and eventually move out of agriculture since the former has higher productivity per worker. And, the higher the productivity, usually, the higher the wages.

What’s more, according to the report, the Global Competitiveness Index is designed to help policymakers, business leaders and other stakeholders shape their economic strategies in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. By that token, there is much left to be desired on the part of the policymakers here at home. The Fourth Industrial Revolution, in its essence, is a digital revolution. But since we fare much below when it comes to innovation capability or information, communication and technology adoption, our approach to welcoming the Fourth Industrial Revolution is less than satisfactory. In most countries, algorithms are increasingly present in daily lives and influence decision-making. Though things in Nepal have not gone to that extent, much like in other parts of the world, sooner or later, data processing has the potential to threaten the rule of law and democracy in Nepal too. Unfortunately, the government of Nepal is confused as to how to go about governing algorithms.

These are some of the basic factors to consider before we celebrate our improved ranking in the Global Competitiveness Index. While there is a silver lining, there is much introspection and brainstorming we need to do in order to formulate policies that help develop our economy—especially when it comes to innovation and technology.

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What ideological identity the Nepal Communist Party subscribes to remains unclear.

LOK RAJ BARAL



Started in Calcutta (now Kolkata) in 1949, the Nepal Communist Party has since been swinging from one end to the other to find its proper place in the country’s conflicting political atmosphere. The source of inspiration of ‘communist’ leaders and their actual orientation in Western liberal democratic principles and practices were not only contradictory, but they even went to denouncing the liberal system as bourgeoisie and antagonistic to their own brand of communism. But surprisingly, from its very birth, the leaders were constrained to adopt a liberal multiparty system. In 1959, they, like any other party, joined the first ever held parliamentary election under a constitution that accepted the king as sovereign. In the post-1960 coup period, the party split into numerous groups and personalities accusing each other of ideological deviation.

Swayed by the strong appeals of communism then being experimented in the Soviet Union and later in China, the young Nepalis had a mission of transforming the feudalistic Nepali society in line with Marxism-Leninism and Maoism. The Nepal Communist Party’s first split had started with the open rift between the Soviet Union and the Chinese Communist Party following the rise of Nikita S Khrushchev and his denunciation of Joseph Stalin for his alleged brutalities and the personality cult that he developed after Lenin’s death. In fact, all communist parties of the world polarised into Soviet and Chinese (Mao) camps, so much so that the two rival communist powers, Soviet Russia and Moist China, engaged in a border war in the late 1960s. The Chinese called the Russian brand as ‘revisionism’ that deviated from Marxism and Leninism, thus claiming China as the sole representative of the ‘communist world’.

In Nepal, the pro-Soviet group broke with the anti-monarchical groups then operating from India. A few others directly and indirectly supported the partyless regime, finding some excuses that the royal regime was guided by nationalism. At a time when all shades of opposition were weak to mount any decisive movement in the country, many top-ranking leaders of both the communist and non-communist camps



adopted a moderate position to build rapport with the king. The Nepali Congress, a party that was hard hit by the coup, offered cooperation with the king for ‘further development of the constitution’ whereupon BP Koirala and Ganesh Man Singh were released from jail after eight years and other leaders living in India got amnesty. To counter Koirala’s threat of an armed revolution that he declared after his release, king Mahendra also released Man Mohan Adhikari and Shambhu Ram Shrestha who, predictably, pledged ‘loyal’ cooperation and support to the king for developing the nation and safeguarding national sovereignty. They also applauded the progress made by Nepal over the past few years (in the 1960s) and praised its policy of neutrality. But Pushpa Lal Shrestha continued to oppose the regime calling himself a republican.

It is interesting to note that no communist group including that of Pushpa Lal supported the ‘Jhapali group’ when it went berserk in the name of ‘liquidation of class enemies’ and killed some noted people without any evidence. According to their own judgment, those who were killed were local exploiters and agents of the government. Inspired by the Naxalite movement across the border in India, the Jhapali group (Marxist-Leninist) subsequently renounced violence, but continued mobilising the youth on the basis of their achieved popularity. This group had denounced the national referendum declared by king Birendra in 1979 for ascertaining the opinion of the people whether or not they preferred a multiparty system instead of the ‘no-party system’ enforced by the regime after the 1960 coup. The Marxist-Leninist group interpreted the restoration of the multiparty system as a virtual restoration of the Nepali Congress in another guise.

However, confronted with functional inconvenience after the end of the

royal regime in 1990, Madan Bhandari, then general secretary, decided to transform his party into a parliamentary one. Pragmatic as he was, Bhandari roped in the moderate groups led by Man Mohan Adhikari and Sahana Pradhan (widow of Pushpa Lal) and formed the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist). It could fare well in the 1991 parliamentary elections making it the second largest party after the Nepali Congress. The mid-term election triggered by GP Koirala paved the way for experimenting with all types of governments—minority and coalition of diametrically opposite forces. The meteoric rise of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) eventually paved the way for an almost two-thirds government in 2016 when the former Maoists also dissolved themselves into a new party—Nepal Communist Party. Although many other smaller groups are outside this combination, the mainstream communist party has now dominated the political scene boasting, as Prachanda declared, of 50 years’ rule.

All parties including the Nepal Communist Party are parties for power, not for ideological pursuit. While the Nepal Communist Party wants to keep its credentials of being a progressive party with all the clichés of communism and socialism, its twists and turns and strong will to grab power have put it in a dilemma over whether or not it should go on changing its identity. As if the party has used the parliamentary process and its constitution as convenient ways to power, its newfound love seems to be Chinese President Xi Jinping’s path—‘socialism with Chinese characteristics in a New Era’. To be precise, Xi’s path aims to make China a nation with pioneering global influence and world class military force, eradicate poverty, create a level playing field for business and open up the country’s markets. And

the Belt and Road Initiative is one of the significant aspects of Xi’s doctrine. Many countries that have accepted the Belt and Road Initiative hope that they will benefit immensely as it entails development and connectivity. Nevertheless, what dividend it will pay is not known as yet.

Nepal’s immediate neighbours want to open channels at all levels. A desire to establish party-to-party level contact is nothing new. Politicians of many other countries have participated in parties’ conventions in order to show solidarity and camaraderie. However, the high-level drama staged for the orientation of Xi Jinping’s thoughts among the members of the Nepal Communist Party was singled out for comments by both the main opposition Nepali Congress and a wide spectrum of independent observers. They raised their eyebrows when both the Nepal Communist Party government and party were together to be educated in Xi’s thoughts. China is basically a one-party state whose top leader cannot be removed at intervals. The Nepal Communist Party, on the other hand, is committed to multiparty plural democracy as enshrined in the constitution of Nepal. If the Nepal Communist Party embraces the Xi doctrine and tries to implement it, that will be yet another acrobatic move of the party that may not necessarily do good for its present status. What ideological identity it subscribes to remains as what Winston Churchill described Soviet foreign policy in 1939—‘a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma’. Will the Nepal Communist Party be able to maintain the identity of a party that has achieved its present status through a competitive political mechanism and not through a one-party controlled system?

Baral is a professor of political science and former ambassador of Nepal to India.

Societal values and climate change

It is time to start preparing society for dealing with scarcity and deprivation.

AISHA KHAN

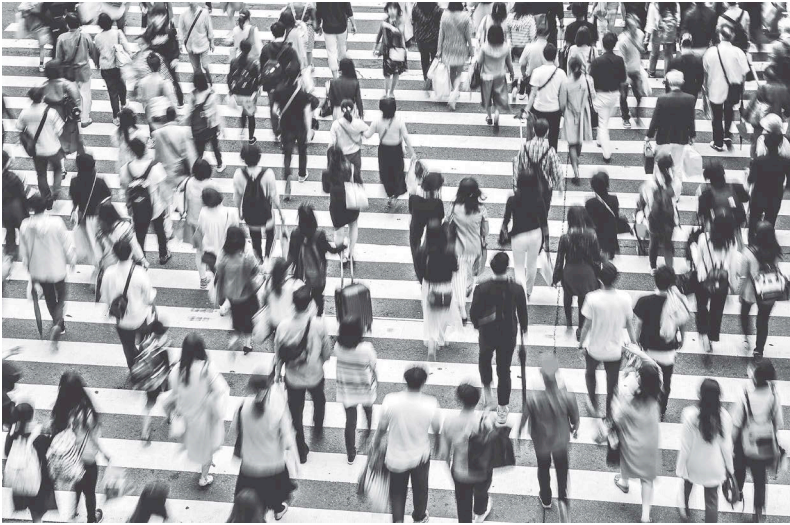


We tend to always think of climate change in the context of food, water and energy security or natural disasters and health, livelihood and productivity. Acknowledging that these will have a direct impact on our daily lives, it is, however, time to take a broader view of this phenomenon as it will alter the way people relate to each other and the environment.

A century ago, the world was a more plentiful place with enough to go around for everybody. There was poverty but the wealth and income divide was not as stark as now, and the difference between the rich and poor was more a result of governance models and practices driven by conquest, acquisition and exploitation.

Living in the age of democracy with a burgeoning population and a shrinking resource base has changed perspectives that will pose challenges of a new kind. These approaches will pit vested interest groups against each other for the grabbing of critical resources, resulting in demographic shifts and societal strife eventually leading to violent conflicts.

Adversity brings out the best and worst in human nature but when life is at stake and the instinct for survival takes over, then even the noblest among us can respond in ways that may seem unimaginable at the present time. The world that is shaping up is not going to have enough to take care of the needs of the 9.5 billion projected population. Nothing at the



moment gives confidence that we are taking this threat as real and imminent. Pledges and commitments by themselves are not enough; they need to produce results, and thus far no measurable signs are visible.

The carbon concentration in the atmosphere has gone up from 399.4 parts per million (PPM) in 2015 to 412 PPM in 2019 and the remaining carbon budget has dipped from 420 gigatons to 350. A warming planet where 74 per cent of the population will not be able to work outside for 20 days in a year and where the lives of 800 million people will be at risk in the South Asian region is the world that we will leave behind for our future generations.

It is time to acknowledge that some of the damage is irreversible and many hardships inevitable and that it is time to start preparing society for dealing with scarcity and deprivation in ways that are compassionate and empathetic. The values that we practise today and the ones that we teach our children should be built on the principles of social, ecological and democratic equity.

Failing to prepare ourselves morally and ethically will plunge us into a

world of social chaos, economic meltdown and all the other associated risks from a collapsing ecosystem. In order to minimise hardships, there are four key issues on which the world needs to focus as part of building the adaptive resilience of society in a rapidly changing world.

Urgency: We need to step up action and act fast and act now. Delay is no longer an option.

Protection of species: We need to protect species and all life systems and should think about conducting a human impact assessment study, something along the lines of an environmental impact assessment for development actions to ensure that all species have an equal chance and enabling environment for survival.

Social values: Practise and promote values that shine the light on human goodness and the greater benefits of sharing and caring over mindless materialism.

Governance and quality of leadership: Make governance more inclusive and participatory. Politics, politicians and policies will determine the future quality of life on Planet Earth. Policies and approaches that are not only about social and economic

indicators but linked to survival must be co-created and have collective ownership from stakeholders.

In plotting the future trajectory of the life cycle on earth some of the things on which we need to reflect are: the survival of democracy, the emergence of a new political world order with populist leadership driving an exclusive agenda, the role and status of women in society, peace and stability within societies and across borders and the right of all species to exist. All these decisions will be influenced by societal values and choices that we make about our fundamental approaches to life.

When the history of the world is written 100 years from now, historians and researchers will not focus as much on the impacts of climate change as on how humanity responded to this challenge. We are already 30 years late in taking action and need to make up now for reckless development agendas and the consequent delay in keeping temperature increase to within the safe threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius. In order to do that now, society must make an effort to understand climate science and use its voice and numbers to demand change not just in policies but in attitudes and behaviour too.

The shift in our stream of consciousness from ‘me first’ to taking everyone along will mark a turning point in the history of climate change. The sixth extinction is staring us in the face and it is almost ironic that we humans who consider ourselves the most intelligent of species are also knowingly working towards our own destruction and the annihilation of other life systems.

We have not yet reached the point of no return and still retain the option of mid-course correction to avert catastrophic effects, but values more than policies will make the bigger difference.

This article was previously published in Dawn, a part of the Asia News Network.

Did Nepal have a role in developing ping-pong diplomacy?

The Chinese table tennis players' visit to Nepal in 1970 was the first foreign test for the Chinese.

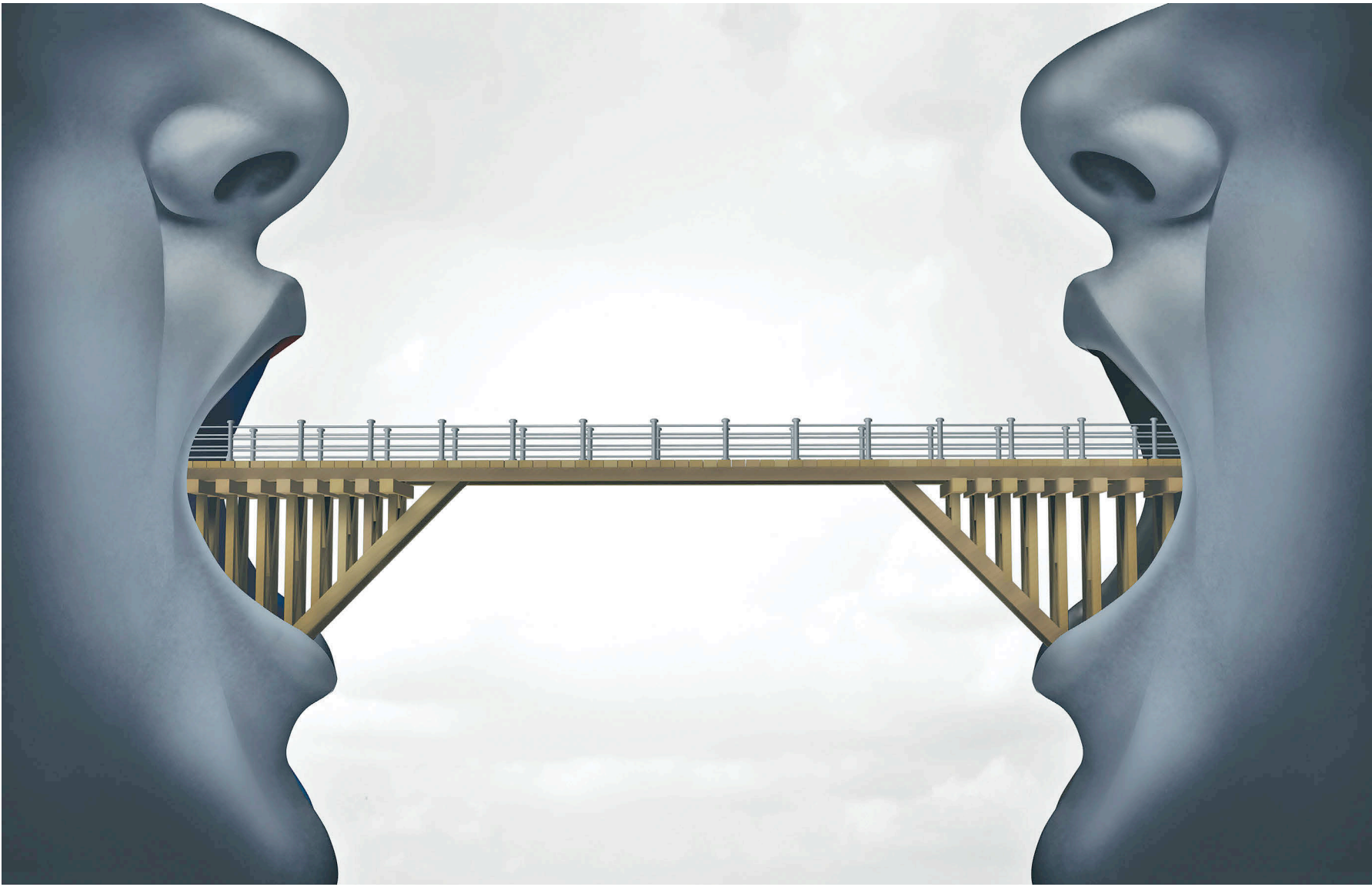
MILAN RAJ TULADHAR



It is said that Chinese president Xi Jinping spent about six years in rural areas of Shaanxi province, from 1969 to 1974, after his father was persecuted by extremist groups during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). In the spring of 1970, while he was still performing his duties in the neighbouring province of Shanxi (the two are different provinces) there was a commotion; a group of top table tennis champions, who had also earlier been sent to rural areas during the Cultural Revolution, accused as they were of being foreign spies, were suddenly recalled back to Beijing by none other than Premier Zhou Enlai. These players were subsequently asked to prepare to go to Nepal as part of a sports delegation, to participate in the celebration of 50th birth anniversary of king Mahendra in June 1970.

Ivor Montagu, credited for popularising table tennis, is the son of a wealthy English baron. Besides being known as maker of Alfred Hitchcock films and possessing various other talents, he was also a known communist activist. Montagu largely funded the first World Table Tennis Championships in London in 1926 and helped found the International Table Tennis Federation that same year. Montagu became the federation's president for 40 years. In October 1952, he visited the newly founded People's Republic of China to help develop the game there. Montagu made sure that table tennis became popular in China. The sport was assured to become a significant attraction after 1959, when the country was able to produce its first ever men's single world champion, Rong Guotuan. Rong received a hero's welcome when he returned from the games, which were held in Germany. Since then, table tennis, also known as ping pong, was tied to China's political fabric. The 26th edition of the World Championships was held in Beijing in 1961. China dominated the tournament. The same trend continued in the next two world championships held in Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia in 1963 and 1965.

Then began the chaotic period of the Cultural Revolution in 1966. Due to its internal situation, China didn't send any participants to the next two World Championships, held in 1967 and 1969. During the Munich championships in 1969, it was rumoured that the Chinese players were badly persecuted by the extremists. The first table tennis champion of China, and one other former



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champion, apparently even committed suicide due to pressures during the revolution. In such a bleak situation, for the players to be recalled from rural work camps to train themselves in Beijing and again to get ready for a journey to Nepal was a pleasant surprise. There was an important hidden agenda for such a shift in the party's outlook about the table tennis players. Of course, it was the beginning of the carving of an intricate form of diplomacy which was in due course called the ping pong diplomacy.

Here in Nepal, ping pong only gained popularity after the players from China arrived in Nepal in 1970 to play demonstration games on the occasion of the king Mahendra's birthday. The team included three-time world champion Zhuang Zedong and other famous players including coach Xu Yinsheng, players Xi Ending, Lin Huigqing, Lili and many others. The players stayed in Nepal for more than a week's time. During this time, they not only played games with their Nepali counterparts and had a cultural tour of the country, but they also had meetings with some high officials. They even had an audience with the king and a meeting with the Nepali prime minister. I was fortunate to have witnessed the exhibi-

Famous table tennis world champions visited Nepal in 1970 and stayed for more than a week.

tion games first-hand. As a beginner in the study of Mandarin, I also had the opportunity to interact with the players. After two years of country life, the players seemed to be quite happy to have this type of experience. Their trip to Nepal made them ready for further exposure in the World Championships of 1971 in Japan and for more diplomatic activities.

Ever since the border war with the Soviet Union in March 1969, the Chinese leaders were trying to realign their international relations. On this front, their good relations with Nepal came in very handy to get their table tennis players an exposure to the international environment before reentering the global stage in Japan. So, the visit to Nepal seemed to

have been well utilised as a springboard for their future plans. In all these activities, Nepal was more than happy to cooperate. In return, Nepal got regular coaches from China and also became a founding member of Beijing-based Asian table tennis Union in 1972, among others.

After skipping the two previous world tournaments, China participated in the 31st World Championships in Nagoya, Japan with sufficient advance planning. The Chinese team arrived in Nagoya ready to adhere Premier Zhou's words of guidance: 'friendship first, competition second'. The Chinese team played quite well and better than they had expected. On the last day of the matches, an American player called Glenn Cowan missed his bus to the venue of the competition. He was offered a seat in the bus which was carrying the Chinese contingent. In the bus, he became friends with the famous Zhuang Zedong, who offered him a silk scarf, with a picture of Huangshan mountain on it, as a gift. The picture of Zhuang and Glenn together holding the gift while alighting from the bus was printed in the Japanese newspapers. The newfound friendship between the Chinese and American players made a great story, and the Chinese team subsequently extended

an invitation to the American team to visit China. It only took 48 hours for the American team to decide on accepting the invitation to visit China. By April 10, 1971, three days after the Nagoya tournament ended, American players had landed in China. This marked the thawing of Sino-US relations, which had been inimical for more than 21 years. The players were given a rousing welcome—even meeting with Premier Zhou Enlai. This opened up the first ever official contact between the two countries. Zhou aptly remarked that the little ping pong ball was intended to move the big ball of global politics. Nixon in his memoirs wrote that he had never expected that the China initiative would come to fruition in the form of a team of table tennis players. In this whole process of ping pong diplomacy, Nepal played a small but crucial role owing to its strong relationship with China at the time.

The ping-pong diplomacy led to Henry Kissinger secretly visiting Beijing in July 1971. The chain of events finally culminated in President Nixon's historic China visit in February 1972. The rest is history.

Tuladhar is the former foreign relations advisor to Jhala Nath Khanal.

Kurds—betrayed again

The US withdrawal from northeast Syria is no surprise given the backstabbing the Kurds have always suffered.

TASNEEM TAYEB

Turkey and the Kurds have a long history of animosity. The Kurds, finding themselves in a no-man's-land between four nations: Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran, have over the decades made multiple attempts to find for themselves a home, often fighting against the Turks. Therefore, America forging an alliance with the Kurds to fight off IS, has been a bone of contention between the two countries. But why did the US form an alliance with the enemy of its ally?

Not that the country did not explore alternatives. The US first looked into local Syrian options, including moderate rebel groups, and according to Foreign Policy invested US\$500 million in a train-and-equip programme which yielded limited results: only a small group fighting near the American al-Tanf base in south-eastern Syria.

Then America turned to Turkey to find alternative fighting groups. The result again was fruitless, because the forces trained by Turkey was inadequate and would require more expansive and proactive involvement of the US military. This led to the US joining hands with the Kurds who formed the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), with the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia to fight the war against



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the IS. In over four years of fighting, according to CNN, SDF lost nearly 11,000 of its fighters, but freed millions of civilians and hundreds and thousands of square miles of landmass from IS control.

Soon after, cracks between the US and Turkey started to become deeper, especially with Turkey regarding YPG as an extension of the designated terrorist group the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Over the last few months, Turkey has raised concerns about the security of its southern border with Syria, where the Kurds are active and the country has threatened retaliation against them. All the while, the US has been trying to assuage its NATO partner with plans of joint patrols of the border areas, which unfortunately was not good enough for Turkey. Erdogan's aggressive rhetoric has only intensified in the last few weeks,

culminating in the phone call with Trump on the night of October 6 and the US troop withdrawal from the region.

In the face of severe bipartisan opposition at home, Trump tweeted, 'We may be in the process of leaving Syria, but in no way have we Abandoned (sic) the Kurds, who are special people and wonderful fighters.' But his actions suggest otherwise. And although Trump has threatened to punish Turkey if it goes off-limits he tried to wash his hands of his ally by saying that the Kurds 'didn't help us in the second World War, they didn't help us with Normandy for example.' But along with the rest of the world the US has another major concern in the face of the current Turkish offensive: around 12,000 IS fighters (Al Jazeera), almost one-third of them foreign nationals who have been held captive in seven prisons by SDF near

the city of Raqqa. And the thousands of family members and relatives of the IS fighters kept in different camps in the areas that fall within the 'safe zone' that Turkey wants to create to accommodate some of the displaced Syrian refugees.

As Turkey's operation rolls on, if SDF has to mobilise troops near the border areas to fight the Turks, one wonders what would happen to the IS prisoners and their families. There are fears that the distraction caused by the Turkish offensive could easily create conducive circumstances for the IS prisoners to flee, and perhaps to regroup and re-emerge?

With the defeat of the IS still seen as fragile by military experts, one wonders, if it was the right course of action for Turkey, or America for that matter. If SDF is not able to endure the attack of Turkey—reports of plumes of smoke

rising into the air and people fleeing in panic especially in the towns of Ras al-Ayn and Tal Abyad are already making the rounds of international headlines—who will prevent the IS fighters and their families from slipping out?

According to BBC, at least 11 civilians have been killed since the beginning of the recent Turkish operation along with 'dozens of fighters from the Kurdish-led SDF and pro-Turkish factions'. Turkey says it has 'neutralised' 399 YPG fighters; the Kurds put the figure at 29. As per UN estimates, the Turkish offensive in northeast Syria endangers the lives of 1.7 million people. Various humanitarian groups have estimated that the attack puts 300,000 people at the risk of displacement.

The Kurds have been used by the US in brewing trouble in Iran, Iraq and Turkey, and conveniently been left to their own devices when being nerve gassed by Iraq in the 1980s and slaughtered by Iraqi military in the 1970s. In fact, during the reign of Abdel Karim Kassem, the US had armed the Kurds because the country was having trouble controlling Kassem. And with the fall of Kassem in the 1963 coup, according to The Intercept, America backtracked on its policy towards the Kurds, cut off the aid and supplied the new government with napalm, which inevitably was used on the Kurds. Given this history of betrayal, one wonders why had the Kurds not considered the possibility of their new-found alliance turning sour again?

In the midst of this chaos, one can only hope the tenuous defeat of IS in the region is not just a brief interlude in another bloody and senseless chapter of our history.

This article was previously published in The Daily Star, a part of the Asia News Network.

Training on the cheap

Do not let yours or your company’s lack of funds be a barrier to advancing your career.

JIM FORTNER

The company I work for used to be very generous about training, but it has cut back severely. But I can’t do it on my own, what with taking a pay reduction and working longer hours after layoffs. I don’t want to be left behind in skills. What can I do? It is absolutely critical that you continue to invest in yourself to remain relevant in your business. Do not let your company’s lack of funds be a barrier to advancing your career.

There are four types of training that do not cost much. The first of these can be found on the Web. Many of the offerings there present opportunities for real skills building. The second option is distance learning, which is also generally accomplished through the computer. Third, local communities of shared interest can provide relevant training in technology, project management and even leadership. Finally, I would encourage you to learn on the job via joining up with others outside your team so you can develop broader points of view. I have learned a lot over the years taking on different assignments and meeting with all kinds of people outside of my space.

Certifications are also important, since they are visible signs that you are a “learning” employee, which every employer wants. For example, a certification in project management is a great skill to have in IT.

The IT industry is alive and well in the US. The Digital Age is in the early stages, and having employees who have strong enterprise skills and who like to learn is invaluable. Do not let your company provide the excuse for you to not invest in yourself. If you let that happen, you will not stay relevant in your business.

I’m pretty much a tech guy—been working in networking for seven years and love it. I wouldn’t expect to be anyone’s choice for a management role—too head-down, results oriented. Still, I



sometimes have what I consider to be good ideas for the larger organization. My manager (who is far less of a tech guy) hasn’t shown much interest in my input. I find that pretty irritating. What can I do about this? This is a challenging situation you are in. First, I want to commend your deep technical skills. Companies need IT leaders who are both technical as well as organizational savvy.

You should avoid labelling yourself as technical rather than managerial. When you do this, you tell yourself and others that you are not someone to involve in managerial and business issues. The danger is that someone else (or a vendor) will come along (domestically or offshore) who can do the technical job better. When that happens, you lose your distinctiveness.

You should avoid labelling yourself as technical rather than managerial.

Therefore, begin professing that your passion is to improve business results for your company. That will ensure that you are seen as a person who is on the team and in the game rather than someone who is in the stands watching. The second intervention I would make is to build a relationship with your manager. He should be your biggest advocate. As he gets to know you and you him, you will appreciate each other’s diverse set of skills. Through this mutual appreciation, he may open up and listen to your ideas. The two of you will begin complementing one another and leveraging each other’s unique contributions.

Finally, present him with proposals and ideas that are carefully thought through and which clearly show how he can drive further

business value. Managers are not stupid; they want to look good, and if they have an employee who makes them look good, this will pay off for the employee.

If you ever pit yourself against your manager, you will lose. Since your manager is not much of a tech guy, you will need to talk less technology and more business benefits and business processes. You need to talk his language. In summary, it begins with your mind-set, then moves to the relationship and finally to your actions and language.

I have been gritting my teeth for the past couple of years and holding on to a admin job that I really don’t like, the problem being insensitive management. A bad job seemed better than no job. Now, with the economy improv-

ing, I’ve been looking around at alternatives. Meanwhile, my current employer has suddenly shown some awareness that its employees are human beings and is being more accommodating toward us. Would it be wiser to move on, in the belief that this is a convenient conversion in their attitude, or to stay put and enjoy the new liberalism here? This is a very difficult situation, though a common one. It is important for you to really enjoy your work. We spend eight to 12 hours a day in the office, and it is critical that we see the value in this labor.

I would recommend that you move out of the admin job and get something else that continues to grow you and provides passion in your life. I would also recommend that you do a deeper dive on whether to stay in your company or leave. You must really examine the pros and cons of this decision. If you are neutral or leaning more toward leaving, then you should begin the search process while you still have a job. It is important, though, as you go through this process to continue to give 100 percent of your energy to your existing employer. Do not let your heart and your energy leave while you are searching. Also, be careful that you leave for the right reasons. Many times, the company you are in is a good one, but your particular boss poses problems, or you have outgrown the job you are working in. Therefore, you should have a dialogue with your boss about moving to another area, so that you can increase your contribution to the company. Ask for support in this process. If they say no, then you have your answer—you should look outside. Remember, you must take your career into your own hands. It is your responsibility to grow and develop through different opportunities and training, but be careful that you don’t let your emotions take hold. Progress forward logically. And best of luck, my friend!

—Reuters

Busting career counselling myths

What are the impacts and scopes of counseling for the future?

DAWN

Being a relatively recent feature added to the educational dimension of a student in South Asia, career counselling falls victim to various myths regarding its scope and impact. This is an attempt to debunk many of them and hopefully give a clearer view of what exactly is it that career counselling entails.

Myth: Career counselling is all about placements in top colleges and the job of the counsellor is to ensure that the students are placed wherever they (or in many cases the parents) desire.

Truth: Career counselling is about helping students understand what it is that they want to do, what it is that they can do and how to bridge the gap between the two.

The fact is that for most students, top colleges are not the best option. Instead the counsellor works with them to find the college which is a right fit for them. In fact, for many students local higher education options are better than foreign ones and in such cases the counsellor then guides them through the local admission processes rather than foreign ones despite their being able to financially afford a foreign degree.

Myth: It is more fruitful for the high achieving students as they stand a higher chance of getting acceptances in high-ranking universities.

Truth: High achievers will manage to pave their way around and get to places somehow or the other. A career counsellor can only add a limited degree of value to their profile.

However, it is the second and third tier students who have the potential but need more assistance in channelling it correctly to be able to achieve their goals.

Myth: Career counselling has nothing to do with personal issues.

Truth: There is nothing more personal than one’s own career and a number of personal issues like family dynamics, financial struggles, etc., come into play. Hence a career counsellor does in fact deal with a student’s various personal issues as well.

Myth: Career counsellors are psychiatrists.

Truth: Career counsellors cannot read students or parents’ minds. They don’t know what the students want to do or like to do unless they talk about their interests with them. The counsellors can help the students look at the various career options branching out from their interests and competencies and the necessary requirements to deal with them.

Myth: Career counsellors are fortune-tellers with a crystal ball hidden underneath their desks.



Truth: As much as career counsellors would love to be able to predict the future to the last dot, it is not within their power to do so. They can look at trends of the past and the prospects of the future and predict what to expect a few years down the lane but they cannot calculate the paycheck a student will be drawing 10 years from now.

Myth: A career counsellor’s job is to tell the student what career he or she should opt for.

Truth: A career counsellor’s job is not to tell students what career they should opt for. Instead, the counsellor should facilitate students in understanding what they are interested in, and have the ability to pursue in the future. And then help the student in building a path leading to the career that they choose.

Myth: A hobby cannot become a career.

Truth: If applied wisely, most hobbies can turn into careers. And the job of the

career counsellor is to help the student look at the various options which would allow him or her to use a hobby as a career.

Myth: If a student’s brother, sister, aunt, uncle, cat, neighbour and cousin love a career and excel in it, then he or she will love it, too.

Truth: Every single student is different, with unique preferences and aptitudes. One success story in a certain field does not guarantee a repeat episode for everyone else. Similarly, one failed example should also not be held as the guiding light to some other student’s prospects in the same career.

Myth: The end goal of good career counsellors is to make students rich.

Truth: If career counsellors knew the secret to the tree that grew money in the backyard, they would be lounging in the backyard rather than dishing out career advice. The truth is that career counsellors’ end goal is to make sure that students

Every single student is different, with unique preferences and aptitudes.

make choices that enable them to do whatever it is that they want to pursue in life, rather than just making a lot of money. Pursuing a field that one excels in will automatically lead prosperity in the field.

Myth: A career counsellor is synonymous with the concept of an agent who sends students abroad to study.

Truth: A career counsellor is not an agent. And nothing close to one either. While agents have a given set of universities on their panel that pay them a commission for every student that they send, career counsellors have no external links with any institutions. This arrangement usually creates a situation where the student applying through an agent will have to limit his or her choices to the institutes under the agent’s belt regardless of whether they are a good fit or not, whereas in the case of a counsellor, the options are plenty and the sky is the limit.

Spending a day on Kathmandu’s flyovers

While city life rushes under the flyover bridge stretch from Sundhara to Bhotahiti, some people on the bridge spend their time admiring and observing the hustle of Kathmandu.

ARJUN BHATTARAI
KATHMANDU

Aslam Ansari leans onto the walls of the flyover, made for pedestrians to cross the one-way road-stretch, just in front of the New Road Gate. He gazes at the vehicles passing swiftly from underneath the bridge, then turns his view southwest towards the Kathmandu Mall, observing the hustle and bustle of the city as people take the public buses waiting in a queue in front of the shopping arcade.

“This is my favourite place to pass my time,” he says, a truck driver by profession. He drives his truck from Inaruwa, Siraha, to Kathmandu.

Ansari is one of the many people who are part of the crowd on and under such pedestrian flyovers in Kathmandu, which otherwise should have been just a transitory bridge. There are people who hurriedly take the bridge to get from one side of the road to the other. These people have little time to waste, but are forced to pause, slow their steps and sometimes even bump into other people who are either making their way to the opposite side or who are just leisurely standing by the fences, people like Ansari. Either way, these flyovers are always filled with people from different walks of life.

Standing underneath the bridge, Ansari is least bothered by the hustle and bustle of the city, and the air pollution that seems to have engulfed Kathmandu’s sky. On the contrary, he looks calm and composed. He pulls out a cigarette from his pocket, lights it and soon exhales a cloud of smoke that effortlessly mixes with the rest of the dust and smoke in the air.

“I normally spend all my day observing people and their activities from this bridge,” he says, while a crowd of people wearing masks walk past him. “There are always new buildings being built, road constructions going on. I like observing these things; it’s entertainment for me.”

There are eight flyovers from the beginning of Sundhara (adjacent to Civil Mall) to the Jamal roundabout—encircling the once majestic Tundhikhel, one of the few open spaces left in the city centre. But that too is being encroached from two sides—there’s an army barracks on the south and a newly built buspark on the north, which adds to more crowd spilling into the roads and moving up and down from these flyovers.

The stretch from Sundhara to Bhotahiti, which includes New Road Gate and a line of malls, is arguably the busiest place in Kathmandu. This street is lined



POST PHOTO: KESHAV THAPA

Flyovers that are primarily made for pedestrians to cross roads have become a good spot for some people to leisurely watch the city’s hustle and bustle.

with corner shops, offering pedestrians a host of products.

The flyovers that exist in the area are also filled with vendors. There are street vendors selling almost everything, from dishwashing bars to baby clothes, even earbuds, both over and under the bridge.

Anju Singh’s husband is one such vendor, who sells pineapples in a small basket under the flyover bridge connecting Ratnapark and Baghbazaar. Singh’s stall is the only means of survival for her family of three. While her husband sets up the small stall and finds customers in the busy street, Singh stands on the flyover bridge with her two-year-old daughter Sita. Although Sita keeps her occupied, running around barefoot through the stretch of the flyover, Singh is vigilant of what is going on around her surroundings—she is there to spot metropolitan city officers coming towards her husband’s stall and warn him ahead of time so that he can quickly pack up and flee to a nearby hiding spot. “The busi-

ness is the only way to sustain our living. We normally make around Rs1500-2000 per day if everything goes well, and our belongings don’t get confiscated,” says Singh.

The Kathmandu Metropolitan City does allow vendors into the streets before 9am and after 6:30pm to hawk their products. If caught, KMC’s municipal police reprimand the vendors, hold up their goods for one month, and fine them. This has happened to Singh’s husband too; five times, she says.

So, unlike others on the flyovers, who are leisurely walking or standing on the bridge, Singh’s facial expressions do not exude calmness even for a second. Singh is anxious. She cannot afford their stall getting spotted by the municipal police.

“I have to stand here on the bridge along with my daughter all day to make sure that my husband isn’t caught. Of course, I don’t like standing here, but I don’t have other options,” says Singh. “It takes away all the effort we’ve put in since the morn-

ing and are left with no earnings for the day.”

Another street vendor Kamala Lokanti, who sells sliced pieces of cucumbers with *khursani ko achar* (chilli paste) on the side just beneath a flyover in Sundhara, agrees with Singh.

The 55-year-old seems less bothered about the humdrum of ordinary life of people walking by. With a piece of cloth constantly in her left hand to wipe away drops of sweat off her forehead, Lokanti, originally from Sindhupalchok, has been working as a street vendor for almost a year now.

Settling herself at a corner of the bus station, she asks every passerby if they want a slice of cucumber. A lot of them just walk by, while a few of them stop and get a piece or two. Each slice costs around Rs20 and Lokanti makes around Rs400-500 per day.

Her eyes are constantly scanning the area—either for her customers or for metropolitan city officers. Although she



This core city area is a transit point to get to the other parts of the capital.



POST PHOTOS: ARJUN BHATTARAI

Online streaming giants battle for Asian audiences

Disney and Apple are set to launch their platforms across Asia Pacific this year, capitalising on growing mobile usage and rapidly improving access to faster speed internet.

MATHEW SCOTT

Acclaimed director David Michod’s epic *The King* was one of four major Netflix productions screened at Asia’s largest film festival this week, underlining how streaming services are increasingly challenging Hollywood and traditional media for the attention of artists—and viewers.

Asia is seen as an important part of the global streaming industry’s growth plan. In conjunction with the main event, Busan International Film Festival also hosted its first Asia Contents Awards reflecting how the market is rapidly changing. “They gave us the resources and the freedom to make this properly,” Michod said of working with Netflix.

“I like that I don’t feel I am sacrificing myself at the altar of the box office,” he added.

So called over-the-top (OTT) platforms or video-on-demand (VOD)—online services that viewers can access directly such as Amazon Prime, YouTube, Hulu and Apple TV—are booming.

Hollywood stars including Julia

Roberts, Rooney Mara, Brad Pitt and Will Smith, have embraced streaming as audiences grow.

“If people want to can go see (films) on the big screen they can, but my TV at home is amazing,” Michod explained.

Disney and Apple are set to launch their platforms across Asia Pacific this year, capitalising on growing mobile usage and rapidly improving access to faster speed internet.

Vivek Couto, executive director at research group Media Partners Asia, believes the region is “crucial” to the plans of global streaming platforms as there are “massive prospects to go after”.

Content boom

Online video revenue—predominantly from film and TV subscriptions as well as advertising—in the region will increase by 24 percent in 2019, making it worth \$27 billion annually, according to a report by Couto’s firm.

That figure is predicted to hit \$50 billion by 2024.

China accounts for around 59 percent of revenue for the region



PHOTO: PRAVESH

in 2019, according to the report—but its strict regulations make access difficult for outside players with local platforms iQIYI, Tencent Video and Youku dominating.

Google-owned YouTube earns the largest share of revenues in Asia, but Netflix, Amazon Prime and Disney’s Indian platform Hotstar have all experienced significant growth in the past few years.

“Local content has historically been the preserve of large incum-

bent TV networks in markets such as India, Japan and Korea but as content and consumption moves online the availability and creation of premium local content becomes important,” said Couto.

He added this would drive up demand, and create opportunities for subscription streaming and for advertisers.

HBO Asia had the world premiere of its star-studded Malaysian co-production “The Garden of Evening Mists” at BIFF. The film is pan-Asian by

design—starring Malaysian Lee Sinjee, Japan’s Hiroshi Abe, and Taiwan’s Sylvia Chang—but global in ambition.

“VOD platforms widen the distribution and amplify the presence of these Asian films to global audiences,” the film’s producers said in a statement to AFP.

Netflix is rolling out 17 Asian productions, with the platform’s first series from Thailand expected to debut by the end of the year.

Know your audience

Despite the arrival of global giants, local platforms believe they can hold their own.

The Southeast Asian HOOQ platform this week announced 19 productions were in the works all made by film-makers from the region.

“As a company that is built in Asia for Asians, we believe that local stories are best told by locals,” argued Jennifer Batty, the company’s chief content officer.

Singapore-based documentary streaming service iwonder recently expanded into eight new south-east Asian markets

“As we expand our offerings, a key focus will be finding documentaries from within those markets, accessing local voices who shine their own unique light on their world,” said the platform’s co-founder James Bridges.

Adapting content to audiences needs will be vital to success.

Around 250 million people regularly watch films on their mobile devices in India.

In response, Netflix introduced a mobile-only version of its streaming, but Asian firms may have the edge on understanding what local audiences want.

“Where I think companies like ours in Asia have the edge is that we are up with the trends out here instantly. We are addressing the way people watch content in Asia,” said Indian producer Ekta Kapoor, managing director of the VoD service ALT Balaji.

She added: “We are making shows designed to be watched on mobile devices, not adapted for them. Shorter-form, about local characters and issues. That puts us ahead.”

—Agence France-Presse

Jordan clash a litmus test for Nepali football

Nepal advised to stop making minor defensive errors that have led to a hemorrhage of goals.



A file photo of Nepali national football team during a training session at the ANFA Complex in Satdobato, Lalitpur.

PRARAMBHA DAHAL
KATHMANDU, OCT 13

Following a 5-0 defeat down under against Australia last week, Nepal have reached Jordan for their fourth away group stage match under the World Cup and Asian Cup Joint Qualification tournament.

Having played against Jordan only two times, memories of the 9-0 demolition in the away fixture of the FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers in 2011 are still fresh for team Nepal. Despite managing 1-1 draw in the reverse fixture at home, Nepal have a lot to do to produce anything but yet another drubbing in the tournament's early stage as they have already conceded 12 goals, including a 7-0 thrashing from Kuwait while scoring only twice against Taiwan in their 2-0 victory.

The 98th position in the latest FIFA rankings for Jordan in itself is a disguise as the Western Asian nation had secured a 1-0 win against Australia at the group stage of the AFC Asian Cup in the United Arab Emirates earlier this year. Jordan had crashed out from the Round of 16 following a 4-2 defeat in tiebreakers against Vietnam. For their recent results, Jordan settled for a goalless stalemate against Kuwait on Thursday. In addition to that, Jordan played against Paraguay in an international friendly in September; the

South American giants are placed 40th in the FIFA rankings. This may come as a surprise to many, but Jordan were two goals ahead by the end of the first half though they eventually lost the match 4-2.

When Nepal take on Jordan at the Amman International Stadium on Tuesday, Nepal should also keep in mind that Jordan had managed a one-goal margin win against Taiwan, the side against whom Nepal had scored two, but football is simply about more than plain statistics.

Football analyst Sanjeev Mishra calls for more from the senior players in the squad for a positive result against Jordan. Mishra says, "Players like Rohit Chand and Kiran Chemjong who have made us proud with their heroics in leagues abroad have yet to shine. We have very high expectations from them for Nepal in major international matches and it was evident in the clash against Australia. If we are to have a good match against Jordan where the playing conditions are similar to that of Kuwait, both Chand and Chemjong have to play at their level best and inspire the other players on the field."

Pointing out the loopholes of Nepal in the defeats against Kuwait and Australia, Mishra adds: "A defensive approach in any match can't be termed negative. However, we did not see

POINTS TABLE

Country	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Australia	2	2	0	0	8	0	6
Kuwait	3	1	1	1	7	3	4
Jordan	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Nepal	3	1	0	2	2	12	3
Taiwan	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Nepal trying to steal the ball when sans possession or press the opposition players. Simply having a crowd of players in and around your own box only invites unnecessary troubles and unwanted confusions which end up hurting the scoreline as happened in our two defeats. The players must try and steal the ball, create counter-attacks and not give away the possession cheaply."

Former national team coach Birat Krishna Shrestha who believes that attack is the best form of defense says, "A very defensive approach will only come back to haunt us as it certainly limits our goal scoring opportunities. Nepal in recent matches have struggled with sustaining the formation and shape, which has resulted in conceding early goals. When the team is chasing the result right from the early minutes, the players are bound to get demoralized. Our boys must play without any fear, stick to the tactics

laid out by the coach and try and create more chances for the forwards. As wins in football are about scoring one goal more than the opponents, we can only relish that vantage if we create goal-scoring opportunities."

Bharat Khawas, Nepal's forward who had scored the equaliser against Jordan in the drawn match played at Dashrath Stadium back in 2011 but has not traveled with the team due to his personal engagements this time says, "Jordan are a very strong team and they will certainly be favoured by their home conditions and the support of the fans. Having said that, this match is also an opportunity for Nepal to earn the least of a precious point. We have to reduce the defensive errors that we've been making as of late." Khawas went on to add that Nepal were yet to play all the home fixtures of the group stage and reminded that the team have been better when playing at their own backyard.

While Nepal's recent displays may probably not be adequate to produce a satisfactory result, the experiences and learnings from playing against Australia must be put to effective use by the coaching staff and the players themselves. A positive attitude as identified by the analysts would help Nepal in terms of mentality as the team does not have much to lose given the way the points table is shaping up.

‘We need to push forward and take advantage of the transition’

Meghraj KC, the current head coach of the Three Star Club is also the head coach of the national Under-19 team. He served as an assistant to Briton Graham Roberts, the former head coach of Nepal who led the team in 2011 for the 2014 World Cup Qualifiers against Jordan. Nepal had lost the away match 9-0 against Jordan in Amman before playing a 1-1 draw at the reverse fixture at home in Dashrath Stadium. The Post's **Prajwal Oli** spoke with KC on Sunday, two days before Nepal play against Jordan for their away match of the joint qualifiers of FIFA World Cup and AFC Asian Cup. Here are the excerpts.

How do you remember the Nepal-Jordan matches of the World Cup Qualifiers in 2012?

The level of Jordan team was much higher than ours. Before we could have thought of anything they showered us with goals in the away fixture and they were 4-0 up by 24 minutes. We eventually lost the match 9-0. They totally dominated the game and we were speechless at the end. The home match finished in a 1-1 tie. It is not that we were a changed side in the home match played just after five days, but various factors came into effect in the draw including the incessant rain throughout the day and the overwhelming support of the home spectators. They failed to play their natural game in the waterlogged pitch and luck also favoured us in the comeback draw.

What are your expectations when Nepal play Jordan in Amman on Tuesday?

Nepal have become a much-improved side than in the past when it comes to playing against superior opponents. Jordan are of course a much better side than us. We should take a cautious strategy and it is better to play with the tactics of stopping them rather than going for a win. We must know our ground reality but we need not fear to take our chance. It may backfire if we play too aggressive football.

Did Nepal maintain their standard while playing their last three matches of the joint Qualifiers?

In fact, we were fortunate to get the chance of playing the second round of the Qualifiers. We must judge ourselves if we really meet the standards to play the second round. Our players have been giving their best against the much higher level opponents. We must be happy and satisfied with the performance of our players.

Where do you see are the areas for improvement for team Nepal?



Meghraj KC

There are many aspects where Nepali players need to improve. As we are playing against the tough opponents, we are concentrated only on stopping them. When we have the ball at defensive zone we need to think of pushing forward and take advantage of the transition period. The players need to have an attacking mentality even when they are playing a defensive game and also make a defensive approach when they are in attack. Though we make be weak, we also get at least one or two attacking opportunities throughout the match and if we grab them the outcome could be unexpected despite having a defensive approach. The main thing is that we should have a strong mentality despite playing with an offensive or a defensive approach.

How tough is to play an away match against Jordan?

It is really tough to play the away fixture against Jordan. After facing 5-0 defeat against mighty opponent like Australia, the team must not be too much disappointed. However, a defeat is a defeat and we must be more cautious in our upcoming fixtures. Nepali team might again come up with the approach of stopping (playing for a draw) against Jordan. That could be a wrong approach and we must have the courage to take our chances.

What is your message to the national team?

We need not forget how we got a chance to play in the second round and take the matches of the tournament as an opportunity to learn. Playing against tough opponents help you become stronger in future. I want them to enjoy their game, gain experience and learn from the opponents.

Medvedev thumps Zverev to win Shanghai Masters title

The 23-year-old beat the German at fifth attempt.



Daniil Medvedev of Russia celebrates after beating Alexander Zverev of Germany in the men's singles final match of the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament on Sunday.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SHANGHAI, OCT 13

Daniil Medvedev won his fourth title of a spectacular year with a thumping 6-4, 6-1 victory over Alexander Zverev in the Shanghai Masters final on Sunday.

Victory for the 23-year-old Russian, contesting a sixth final in a row, was more evidence that he is the prime contender to join the "Big Three" of Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. The US Open finalist is also able to say that he has finally beaten the German Zverev, another young contender at 22, at the fifth attempt. This was an emphatic statement from the world number four, needing just 74 minutes to seal the crown.

"I think the stadium was full today and you guys are amazing support, starting from my first match," Medvedev told the crowd. "You gave me good energy to win this tournament. Thank you very much, Shanghai will always be a special place in my heart." Zverev, long touted as the best of the new generation of men's tennis stars, was error-prone, but had no complaints. "As I said yesterday, you are probably the best

player in the world right now," the world number six told Medvedev. "How you are playing is unbelievable."

Medvedev made a fast start, winning his service game and then breaking Zverev's for an early 2-0 lead. Under a closed stadium roof because of rain in Shanghai, Zverev was suffocating, down 3-0 after 11 minutes. But the German sent down an ace to finally get a foothold in the match and then broke back for 3-2.

The duo went with serve until Zverev conceded the set with two calamitous double faults on the trot, the last of which he transpired to gift with a horribly mis-hit second serve that drew a few giggles from the crowd.

The second set began in the same way as the first — Medvedev breaking Zverev's first service game for a prompt 2-0 lead. He then broke once more in the fourth for a dominant victory, and sealed the title with an ace — and the most subtle of smiles.

The next generation has stamped its authority on Shanghai with Djokovic and Federer — beaten by Zverev — both going out in the quarter-finals. Nadal failed to play because of a wrist injury.

Bottas wins in Japan; Mercedes celebrate six title doubles

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SUZUKA, OCT 13

Valtteri Bottas jumped from third to first with an electric start to win the Japanese Grand Prix on Sunday ahead of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel and Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton.

With only Bottas now able to overtake Hamilton in the standings, Mercedes clinched an unprecedented sixth successive drivers'-constructors' world championship double. "I'm happy, very happy," said flying Finn Bottas, who ended a six-month wait for his third victory of 2019 after winning the season-opener in Australia and the Azerbaijan Grand Prix in April. Starting third isn't easy. I had a really nice start, managed to get the lead and then the pace was super good, I could really control the race," he added. "I'm really proud to be part of the team. A sixth title is really impressive."

"Firstly congratulations to the team," said Hamilton, who now leads the drivers' standings by 64

points from Bottas. Emotional Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff dedicated his team's achievement to Formula One legend Niki Lauda, who died earlier this year. "We want to dedicate this to Niki because he's just been such an important part from the beginning of the journey," said Wolff. "I miss him every day," said Wolff, who like Lauda hails from Austria.

Ferrari had enjoyed a front row lock-out in the morning qualifying session caused by Typhoon Hagibis but that was as good as "Super Sunday" got for them as their race unravelled right from the start. Vettel twitched before the lights went out and his hesitation enabled the fast starting

Bottas to leapfrog into the lead.

Max Verstappen enjoyed a bullet launch off the grid from fifth in the Red Bull and was overtaking the Ferrari of Charles Leclerc on the outside of turn two when the Monegasque drove into the Dutchman, causing him to spin. "He just drove into the side of my car," complained an unhappy Verstappen, who retired on lap 15.

Leclerc's front wing was damaged but he soldiered on with sparks and debris flying dangerously before he was forced to pit for a new nose at the start of lap four. He was subsequently summoned to face the stewards and penalised five seconds for causing the collision and given a further 10 seconds penalty for continuing to drive his car in an unsafe condition.

BRITISH GURKHAS NEPAL

SALE OF VARIOUS SURPLUS STORES

The following various surplus stores are available for sale at Headquarters, British Gurkhas Nepal HQ BGN, Manbhawan, Kathmandu and British Gurkhas Camp, Pokhara:

DSACOMDD/G/019 - VEHICLES LOCATED AT KATHMANDU			
Honda Hero Splendour Motorcycle	2003	KM: 15977	RN: AP07AB Serial: 60-0-465
Honda Hero Splendour Motorcycle	2003	KM: 20772	RN: AP08AB Serial: 60-0-466
Honda Hero Splendour Motorcycle	2004	KM: 17503	RN: BE45AB Serial: 60-0-475
Honda Hero Splendour Motorcycle	2004	KM: 8793	RN: BE46AB Serial: 60-0-476
Honda Hero Splendour Motorcycle	2004	KM: 11523	RN: BE47AB Serial: 60-0-477
Land Rover Discovery2	2004	KM: Unknown	RN: BR31AB Serial: 60 CD 49
Ford Transit 430 EL Van Jumbo	2005	KM: 95487	RN: BT07AB Serial: 60-0-389
Land Rover Defender 110 Station Wagon	2008	KM: 146165	RN: GX21AB Serial: 60-0-534
LDV Maxus Van	2008	KM: Unknown	RN: KG94AB Serial: 60-0-545
Iveco Eurocargio Water Tanker	2010	KM: 27808	RN: KG95AB Serial: 60-0-546
Iveco Cargo 19+1 Seater Minibus	2010	KM: 27808	RN: NC77AB Serial: 60-0-559
Land Rover Defender 110 Station Wagon	2014 (Scrap Vehicle)		RN: RZ42AB Serial: 60-0-505
Fork Lift/Pallet Truck-1000KG			RN: 35MH16

DSACOMDD/G/019 - VEHICLE LOCATED AT POKHARA	
Land Rover Defender 110 Station Wagon 2005	KM:121742 RN: DW05AB Serial: 60-0-500

All vehicles are DUTY NOT PAID and therefore subject to applicable Government Taxes

DSACOMDD/G/019 - GENERATORS LOCATED AT KATHMANDU	
Dawson Keith Static Generator 225KVA 180KW 415V Serials: C23091, C23092, C23093 and its Spare	

DSACOMDD/G/019 - GENERATORS AND ISO CONTAINER LOCATED AT POKHARA	
Cummins Generator 148KW 3 Phase - Quantity 3	
20FT ISO Container	

DSACOMDD/G/019 - SURPLUS STORES LOCATED AT KAHTMANDU	
All used Furniture and Equipment on an 'as seen' basis	

DSACOMDD/G/019 - SURPLUS STORES LOCATED AT POKHARA	
All used Equipment on an 'as seen' basis	

Bidding documents with instruction details of submission will be given at the time of viewing. Interested firms/individuals are advised to contact on Tel: 014235241 for tender details. Information on the vehicles and generators will be obtained at the sites. It will be available for inspection at office premises of British Gurkhas Kathmandu and British Gurkhas Pokhara from Wed 16 Oct until Tue 22 Oct 19, 1030-1200hrs and 1400-1600hrs.

The Headquarters British Gurkhas Nepal will be under no obligation to accept neither all the applications nor the highest or any tender. The decision of authority of Defence Equipment Sales Authority, DE&S will be final.

Registration will be closed at 1700 hours on Tue 22 October 2019.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

2nd Published: 14/10/2019

GENERAL MANAGER

Candidate will be responsible for the efficient operation of 247 rooms 5-star Luxury Hotel. She/he must be a Hotel Graduate with the skills in Rooms, Sales and Food and Beverage in large volume generation and astute in Finance.

Experience: She/he must have 15+ years of work experience in the position of General Manager with the multicultural International 5-star Chain Hotel units with 200+ bed rooms.

Service Conditions:

- On a contract service for a period of 2 years.
- **Salary & Perks:** As agreed between the Management and the applicant

Preference will be given to Nepali Citizen having similar education & work experience

How to Apply: Please forward your CV, Citizenship Copy with Recent Sized Photograph to Human Resources Department before **29/10/2019**.



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